AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

The attached sheets of drawings include replacement sheets in which Figs. 1-8 have been redrawn and descriptive text labels have been added to Figs. 5, 6 and 8.

Attachment: Replacement sheets (7 sheets)

REMARKS

This Amendment responds to the Final Office Action mailed June 8, 2009 in the above-identified application. The foregoing amendments do not raise new issues or require extensive consideration. Accordingly, entry of the Amendment and allowance of the application are respectfully requested.

Claims 1-27 are pending in the application. By this Amendment, claims 1, 7, 8 and 21 have been amended. The amendments find clear support in the original application at least in Figs. 4A and 4B and page 10, lines 1-10. No new matter has been added.

The Examiner has objected to the drawings because the unlabeled rectangular boxes shown in the drawings should be provided with descriptive text labels. Enclosed herewith are replacement sheets in which Figs. 1-8 have been redrawn. In addition, the unlabeled rectangular boxes shown in Figs. 5, 6 and 8 have been provided with descriptive text labels. Original Fig. 8 has been redrawn as Figs. 8A and 8B. No new matter has been added. Entry of the replacement drawings and withdrawal of the objection to the drawings are respectfully requested.

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-27 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over Boys et al. (US 5,875,448) in view of Yokota et al. (EP 0 597 483). The rejection is respectfully traversed for the following reasons.

Boys is directed to an Audio Editor in a handheld device that allows a user to edit the audio in its audio form (Abstract; col. 3, lines 8-36). Boys describes a playback mechanism wherein a user can rewind and fast forward the audio using a thumbwheel that, when activated by the user, indicates how far and how fast to rewind or fast forward. However, this is different from the reverse playback operation recited in Applicant's claims.

The Examiner concedes that Boys does not specifically teach "initiating a backward jump, counter to the forward sequence over a distance corresponding to a length of at least N words using the word boundaries indicated in the word-marking data, to a target position, and then, starting from the target position, the control means initiates a replay of K words of the audio data in the forward sequence using the word boundaries indicated in the word-marking data, wherein K is less than N, the control means further controlling the audio replaying means to automatically repeat performing the reverse mode playback operation while the system is in the reverse mode" (Office Action, pages

4 and 5). Not only is the playback mechanism of Boys different from the reverse playback operation recited in Applicant's claims, but the distance in which the "pointer" is moved in the audio file is a function of how long and at what deflection the thumbwheel is activated. The replay function has no knowledge of the content of the audio, as the audio has not been processed to recognize component parts such as words and word boundaries. As a result, Boys does not disclose or suggest a playback operation that jumps back N words and replays acoustically K words on each repetition of a reverse playback operation.

Yokota is directed to a disc playback method for fast playback of a disc in cue and review modes (col. 1, lines 7-9). In a hybrid playback combination of a fast playback operation in cue and review modes, Yokota describes rewinding a first designated number of data blocks and then playing forward a second designated number of data blocks (col. 11, lines 8-24). However, as with Boys, the system of Yokota does not determine the location of word boundaries in the audio data. During disc playback, the distance of the rewind and playback is based on blocks of data, not word boundaries, as word boundaries are not determined in the system of Yokota.

Amended claim 1 recites, in part, a system for replaying stored audio data comprising voice recognition means for performing voice recognition on the audio data and generating by the voice recognition means word-marking data, the word-marking data indicating the locations of word boundaries between spoken words within the audio data, memory means for storing the audio data and the word-marking data obtained from performing voice recognition on the audio data, audio replaying means for replaying the audio data acoustically in a forward sequence, and control means for controlling the replaying of stored audio data in a forward mode and in a reverse mode, the control means controlling the audio replaying means to perform a reverse mode playback operation including initiating a backward jump, counter to the forward sequence, over a distance corresponding to a length of at least N words using the word boundaries indicated in the word-marking data, to a target position, and then, starting from the target position, the control means initiating a replay of K words of the audio data in the forward sequence using the word boundaries indicated in the word-marking data, wherein K is less than N, the control means further controlling the audio replaying means to automatically repeat performing the reverse mode playback operation while the system is in the reverse mode.

Neither Boys nor Yokota describes a system for replaying stored audio data including *voice recognition means for performing voice recognition on the audio data and generating by the voice recognition means word-marking data, the word-marking data indicating locations of word boundaries between spoken words within the audio data*, as required by amended claim 1. Instead, Yokota describes rewinding a first number of data blocks and then playing forward a second number of data blocks using table of contents (UTOC) information (col. 11, lines 24-30). Table of contents information is very different from word-marking data obtained by voice recognition of the audio data (see col. 8, line 31 to col. 9, line 35 of Yokota).

The Examiner, in the Response to Arguments Section of the Office Action, contends that Yokota, at col. 12, lines 3-20 suggests replaying of K words of the audio data in the forward sequence using the word boundaries indicated in the word-marking data, since the backward jumping is based on the last data position in the program. Applicant must respectfully disagree. Backward jumping and replaying based on boundaries of data blocks and/or programs, as taught by Yokota, is very different from replaying K words based on word-marking data obtained by performing voice recognition on the audio data and generating word-marking data, the word-marking data indicating locations of word boundaries between spoken words within the audio data, as required by amended claim 1. Neither Boys nor Yokota describes any analysis of the content of the audio data to obtain word-marking data which indicate the locations of word boundaries as claimed.

Nor does the combination of Boys and Yokota disclose or suggest control means that initiates a replay of K *words* of the audio data in the forward sequence *using the word boundaries indicated in the word-marking data*, as required by amended claim 1. As discussed above, neither cited reference describes word-marking data obtained by performing voice recognition on the audio data.

For at least these reasons, amended claim 1 is clearly and patentably distinguished over Boys in view of Yokota, and withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Claims 2-7 depend from claim 1 and are allowable over the cited references for at least the same reasons as claim 1.

Regarding amended claim 8, the combination of Boys and Yokota does not disclose or suggest *performing voice recognition, by a voice recognition system, on the audio data and generating word-marking data, the word-marking data indicating locations of word boundaries between spoken words within the audio data*, as claimed. Nor does the combination of Boys and Yokota disclose or suggest replaying K *words* of the audio data in the forward sequence *using the word boundaries indicated in the word-marking data*, as required by amended claim 8. For at least these reasons and the reasons discussed above, claim 8 is clearly and patentably distinguished over Boys in view of Yokota, and withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Claims 9-20 depend from claim 8 and are patentable over the cited references for at least the same reasons as claim 8.

Regarding amended claim 21, the combination of Boys and Yokota does not disclose or suggest a system for replaying stored audio data comprising *a voice recognition system configured to perform voice recognition on the audio data and to generate word-marking data, the word-marking data indicating locations of word boundaries between spoken words within the audio data*, as claimed. Nor does the combination of Boys and Yokota disclose or suggest playing back K *words using the word boundaries indicated in the word-marking data*, as required by amended claim 21. For at least these reasons and the reasons discussed above, amended claim 21 is clearly and patentably distinguished over Boys in view of Yokota, and withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Claims 22-27 depend from claim 21 and are patentable over the cited references for at least the same reasons as claim 21.

Based upon the above discussion, entry of the Amendment and allowance of the application are respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

A Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested. The Examiner is requested to call the undersigned at the telephone number listed below if this communication does not place the case in condition for allowance.

If this response is not considered timely filed and if a request for an extension of time is otherwise absent, Applicant hereby requests any necessary extension of time. If there is a fee occasioned by this response, including an extension fee, the Director is hereby authorized to charge any deficiency or credit any overpayment in the fees filed, asserted to be filed, or which should have been filed herewith to our Deposit Account No. 23/2825, under Docket No. N0484.70057US00 from which the undersigned is authorized to draw.

Dated: September 8, 2009

Respectfully submitted,

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